

Texas Girls Youth Lacrosse League Bylaws

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Overview

The Texas Girls Youth Lacrosse League (“TGYLL” or “League”) is the governing body for girls lacrosse at the youth level in North Texas. The youth level is defined as grades one through eight. The league is currently comprised of approximately 17 girls programs. The league includes community programs and private schools, and the League’s Officers and Board are volunteers.

TGYLL’s primary mission is to grow the sport and maintain the integrity of the League, providing a level playing field on which teams can experience the game of girls lacrosse. The foundation of the League is its bylaws, which establish rules for team and player eligibility, while striving to provide opportunities for all girls who would like to play lacrosse in North Texas.

Definition of Terms

Member Program - A private school or community organization that is the controlling entity of a single or group of league teams that abide by TGYLL rules. Each Member Program, if in good standing, will receive one vote per issue requiring a vote. A current list of Member Programs is attached as Appendix A.

Team - A group of lacrosse players within a Member Program organized by grade who abide by the rules of TGYLL.

General League Operations

1. Member Programs

The League shall be comprised of Member Programs fielding a team or teams. Member Programs shall include only those approved by the Board of TGYLL. Member Programs are required to provide proof of insurance and pay referee(s) and referee assigning fees in a timely manner to be able to vote on any League issues.

2. New Member Programs

New Member Program applications shall be submitted to the Coordinator(s) and voted on by the TGYLL Board at either of the Semi-Annual League Meetings. The application shall consist of a letter to the Coordinator(s), outlining details about the new program’s start-up plan and intentions. New programs are expected to be in full compliance with all League rules at the time of their approval.

3. Meetings

3.1 Semi-Annual League Meetings

Semi-Annual League Meetings will be held (1) in the fall and (2) before the spring season each year and will be open for the transaction of any League business including: rule changes, new rules, election of the Coordinator(s), etc. Requests for an election and nominations for a new Coordinator(s) must be submitted at least two weeks before the Semi-Annual League Meeting. In addition, special meetings of committees or the entire Board may be held at such time and place, as determined by the Board. Notification and voting may be done electronically, telephonically or by mail.

3.2 Notice

Notice of the Semi-Annual League Meeting or special meetings shall be published and communicated electronically by the Coordinator(s) to each Member Program not less than ten (10) days prior to such meeting. Notice shall be sent to the last known email address(s) of the

Member Program as they appear on the books or records of the League. Such notice shall state the purpose for which the meeting is called and the time and place where it is to be held.

3.3 Quorum

The presence of one half of the active Member Programs will constitute a quorum at all meetings. The act of a majority of the Member Programs present at any League meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the League, except as otherwise specifically provided by these rules. Committee meeting quorums will be a simple majority of the committee.

3.4 Proxy Representation at Meetings

Member Programs may designate another Member Program to vote on its behalf at any meeting. Proxy authorizations, approved by an authorized representative of a Member Program, must be submitted in writing to the Coordinator(s) prior to the start of any League meeting.

4. Officers

4.1 Officers

The officers of the League shall be: TGYLL Coordinator(s) and the Secretary. A list of the current Coordinator(s) and Secretary is attached as Appendix B.

4.2 Elections

Member Programs having a vote shall elect the Coordinator(s). Requests for an election and nominations for a new Coordinator(s) must be submitted at least two weeks before the Semi-Annual League Meeting. Requests must include background and credentials of any nominee(s) for review by all Member Programs prior to the meeting for publication within the agenda notification.

4.3 Terms of Office; Removal; Vacancies

The Coordinator(s) shall serve a two-year term, which may be renewed, and new Coordinator(s) are elected by Member Programs at the Semi-Annual League Meeting. Any Officer may be removed from office at any time either with or without cause by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Member Programs. If any vacancy of an office shall be caused by reason of death, resignation, disqualification, removal, or otherwise, replacement shall be made by election by the Member Programs. The replacement shall be for the partial term to be effective until the next Semi-Annual League Meeting.

5. Duties of Officers; Board

5.1 Coordinator(s)

The Coordinator(s) shall be in charge of the general affairs of the League. The Coordinator(s) presides at all League meetings, appoints special committees, and serves as an ex-officio member of all such committees.

5.2 Secretary

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the League at meetings and performs other duties as may be assigned by the Coordinator(s).

5.3 Board

The Board is made up of one designated representative from each Member Program. A list of each Member Program's designated representative for the Board is attached as Appendix A.

6. Rules of Play

All games will be played in accordance with the Official Rules for Girls Youth Lacrosse as written by US Lacrosse, except as those rules may be modified in these bylaws. A copy of the 2017 US Lacrosse Youth Girls Rulebook is attached as Appendix C. Exceptions to the official US Lacrosse rules can be approved and implemented by a majority vote during a Semi-Annual League Meeting. To the extent there is a conflict between the rules in these bylaws and the US Lacrosse Youth Girls Rulebook, the rules in the bylaws shall control.

Note: The US Lacrosse Youth Girls Rulebook refer to 14U, 12U, 10U and 8U age groups. For purposes of TGYLL League play:

- 14U is 7th/8th grade
- 12U is 5th/6th grade
- 10U is 3rd/4th grade
- 8U is 1st/2nd grade

Member Programs should also be familiar with and, to the extent practical, follow the Youth Rules and Best Practices Guidebook for Girls published by US Lacrosse, attached as Appendix D. Although possible, it is not recommended that players play up a level. Players may not play down a level under any circumstances.

Specific TGYLL Rules include the following:

6.1 Game Time/Format

1st/2nd/3rd/4th grade teams will play two 20-minute running clock halves, 7v7 with a goalie, no checking, and no score is kept. If a team cannot field a full team (10 players), a shot blocker may be used. The shot blocker should be the Rage Cage shot blocker or something similar (that allows for plenty of space for shots to go in). All shots must be overhand if shooting against a shot blocker, and a ball rolled under a shot blocker will not be counted as a goal.

5th/6th grade teams will play two 25-minute running clock halves for League games or two 20-minute running clock halves for back-to-back League games, 12v12 with a goalie, modified checking, and score is kept.

7th/8th grade teams will play two 25-minute running clock halves, 12v12 with a goalie, modified checking, and score is kept.

6.2 Mercy Rule

If a team trails in a game by six goals or more, the team may elect to invoke the Mercy Rule. In that event, if the team that is ahead wins the draw, the referee will blow the whistle and the trailing team will be awarded possession (indirect free position).

6.3 One Pass Rule

The One Pass Rule shall be in effect for all 1st/2nd/3rd/4th and 5th/6th grade games.

A team must not take a shot on goal until one pass, not including the goalkeeper's clear, is completed or attempted. Referees have the final say in determining pass completion/attempts. The purpose of this rule is to get as many girls involved as possible. It was implemented because teams would get the ball into the hands of one strong player who would run up the field alone and shoot the ball. A team must make one bona fide pass attempt (the ball does not need to be caught to count) before shooting.

TGYLL has asked referees to use their judgment in assessing a bona fide pass. Typical criteria include requiring that the ball go above the shoulder during the pass and that the players be six feet apart. Referees will count passes and will tell the players when they have completed the required pass. Coaches are not to count. Note that referees will not (as coaches should not) tell players that "they can shoot" after one pass is made, because additional passes might be the right thing to do. The intent of this rule is not to have teams make one pass and then, regardless of where the ball is, compel the player to run to the goal and shoot.

Once a team has completed one pass, this count is "reset" only when the opposing team has possession of the ball outside of the defensive restraining line (or outside of the 8-meter arc for 7 v 7 games on a modified field). This rewards teams for playing good defense in their attacking zone — if they recover the ball they can immediately shoot.

If a shot is taken before the One Pass Rule is satisfied, whether or not a goal is scored, the official will whistle and follow the penalty administration for an illegal shot. If a team is trailing by six or more goals, and is given a free position at midfield at the draw, the trailing team must still satisfy the One Pass Rule. The clear by the goalie does not meet the requirements for the One Pass Rule. In a situation where a Deputy advances the ball from inside the goal circle and makes a pass while grounded outside the goal circle, the One Pass Rule will be satisfied.

One Pass Rule Exception: After any whistle and game restart inside the offensive end, the foul will be administered by the official in accordance with prevailing rules dictating a direct or indirect free position -- whether or not the One Pass Rule has already been satisfied. For example, for both 1st/2nd/3rd/4th and 5th/6th play, the requirement for the One Pass Rule will be waived by an official during play when the following has occurred: (a) the ball carrier advances play into Critical Scoring Area; (b) a major foul is committed by a defensive player in the Critical Scoring Area; (c) the ball carrier is awarded a direct free position; and (d) a penalty lane is cleared by the official. In this case, the official may also verbally instruct the ball carrier that she may shoot directly on goal.

6.4 Coach On Field

For 1st/2nd/3rd/4th grade games, each team may have one coach on the field to instruct players.

6.5 Draw After Goal Scored

For 3rd/4th grade games, after a goal is scored, the competition will restart with a draw at center.

6.6 Contested Ground Balls

For 3rd/4th grade games, there are no restrictions for the number of players contesting a ground ball. Kicking the ball is not permitted.

7. Rule Making

The rules of the League shall define and govern League play, League pre-season events, League post-season events and any and all related activities of the League members, teams and players (the “Rules”).

These Rules shall be revised or amended by the act of a simple majority of all Member Programs at any Semi-Annual League Meeting, at a special meeting, or by special electronic mail vote.

If the Coordinator(s) agrees that there are circumstances that may have a serious detrimental effect on the League and that require immediate revision of League rules, the Meeting Notice requirements specified in Section 3.2 may be waived for the purpose of amending or modifying the Rules.

8. Eligibility

Players enrolled in grades 1 through 8 competing for their school or community program are eligible to play. The Coordinator(s) and Board must approve any exceptions to this rule. All players participating for a Member Program must be members in good standing with US Lacrosse. **Elite club teams made up of players pooled from different area schools or communities are not eligible to play in TGYLL.**

8.1 Team Determination

The team a student plays for is determined by the process outlined below, starting with TD 1 and moving down until the appropriate classification is found.

TD 1: A student who attends a school with a Member Program team must play for that school/team.

TD 2: A student who attends a school (private school, parochial school, public school, charter school, or is home schooled) that does not have a Member Program team, but who resides in the attendance zone of a school with a team must play for that school/team (assuming that school/team accepts players who do not attend its sponsoring school).

TD 3: A student who attends a school (private school, parochial school, public school, charter school, or is home schooled) that does not have a Member Program team, and who resides in an independent school district with one or more Member Program teams must play for the closest team in the school district (assuming the Member Program accepts players who do not attend the sponsoring school). The closest team shall be determined by the shortest distance from the student’s residence to the Member Program’s physical address. All distances are determined by the Coordinator(s) using the *Google Maps Driving Directions* application.

TD 4: A student who attends a school (private school, parochial school, public school, charter school, or is home schooled) that does not have a Member Program team, and who resides in an independent school district that does not have a Member Program team must play for the closest Member Program team (assuming the Member Program accepts players who do not attend the sponsoring school). The closest team shall be determined by the shortest distance from the student’s residence to the Member Program’s physical address. All distances are determined by the Coordinator(s) using the *Google Maps Driving Directions* application.

TD 5: Exceptions to the above requirements may be granted by the Coordinator(s) if there are special circumstances such as economic hardship, safety concerns, conflicting school release times, or similar conflicts.

8.2 Residency Determination Process

The student's residence is defined as the location where the student and her family physically reside the majority of the school year. It is the legal residency of the student. The Coordinator(s) must be furnished with certified/notarized copies of all requested documentation to be considered in establishing residency.

In the event of a protest or challenge regarding the residency status of a player, the Coordinator(s) may request copies of documentation or other proof to determine legal residency. Proof of residency documentation may include but is not limited to: Texas driver's license, address page from current credit report, voter's registration card, utility bill, tax receipt, and proof the occupant holds a Texas Homestead exemption on that residence as listed with the appropriate County Tax Assessors office. Documents may be verified with State, local and other official sources, when appropriate. The Coordinator(s) determine required documentation in their sole discretion on a case-by-case basis.

The Coordinator(s) will issue a determination in writing within five business days of receipt of verifiable requested documentation. During the determination process, the Coordinator(s) may appoint an eligibility committee to assist with the evaluation and decision process.

A Member Program or player may appeal the Coordinator's decision in writing to the Secretary. The appeal must be filed within 15 business days of the initial determination. The Secretary will then review the appeal and may appoint an eligibility committee to assist with the evaluation and decision process. The appeal will be reviewed and decided within 10 business days of receipt. The appeal decision will be final and exhausts the appeal process.

Any Member Program with a player in violation of the TGYLL Team Determination Rules will forfeit all League games and be barred from post-season play. Continued violations will result in the Member Program being expelled from the League.

9. Insurance

All Member Programs must have current, general liability insurance that is equivalent to or better than the coverage offered by US Lacrosse. League teams may not play in any League games or participate in other League events without proper insurance. Every year, each Member Program must provide proof of acceptable insurance to the Coordinator(s) prior to the Semi-Annual League Meeting or participation in any League activity.

10. Improper Behavior

Abusive, profane, or violent behavior or language by coaches, players, or fans at any League function may result in Member Program, Team, coach, or player suspension or expulsion from the League. This includes behavior not in conformance with the mission and purposes of the TGYLL as stipulated in the bylaws. No alcoholic beverages or any intoxicating substances or intoxicated individuals are allowed at any League functions. The Coordinator(s) shall determine suspension or expulsion punishments.

11. Referees

Games will be officiated by referees rated by the US Women's Officials Association and assigned by the referee assignor. Payment of the official's fees is the sole responsibility of each team. Officials can be

paid at time of the game or must be paid within 20 days of the game. Referees are paid for no shows by the no show team(s). Referees fees are as follows:

- 1st/2nd/3rd/4th - Two officials, \$45 each, each team pays one official
- 5th/6th and 7th/8th - Two officials, \$55 each, each team pays one official. If 2-20 minute running halves, two officials, \$45 each (playdays).

12. Code of Conduct and Unsportsmanlike Conduct

All coaches, administrators, players and parents, as part of TGYLL, must abide by the TGYLL Code of Conduct, which is attached as Appendix E.

The officials at a game handle initial action for unsportsmanlike conduct. The Coordinator(s) should be alerted to the situation at the time the incident is reported. Any complaints related to unsportsmanlike conduct of a coach, player or spectator should be directed to the Coordinator(s).

Rules for unsportsmanlike conduct penalties to a coach, player or spectator in any TGYLL game include:

- 1) Coach receives one in a game: Reported to the Coordinator(s)
- 2) Coach receives two unsportsmanlike conduct yellow cards or one red card for unsportsmanlike conduct in one game: The coach and Program Head will meet with the Coordinator(s). The Coordinator(s) will discuss the circumstances with the game officials. The Coordinator(s) shall determine if a reprimand is in order.
- 3) Player receives two unsportsmanlike conduct penalties in a game: she will automatically be removed from the current and following games.
- 4) Team receives three unsportsmanlike conduct penalties in a game: Forfeit of the current game. (This can be any combination of unsportsmanlike behavior with the coaches, players and/or spectators)
- 5) Officials will fill out a form reporting any unsportsmanlike conduct and submit it to the Coordinator(s) via email, phone or fax immediately following the game.

[END]